



■ ***Pain and Symptom Management Website Is Now Available*** ***Website Designed to Provide Valuable Information to Health Professionals and the General Public Alike***

In 2007 the Bureau of Health Professions unveiled the Pain and Symptom Management website at www.michigan.gov/pm. Although there was some information regarding pain and symptom management already on the bureau's website (www.michigan.gov/healthlicense), it was determined that a separate website was necessary. It is especially important to have a clearinghouse for this information since over 75 million Americans live with serious pain.

The Pain and Symptom Management website provides in-depth information for health professionals, the general public, patients, families and advocates. When health professionals click on the *Pain and Symptom Management for Health Care Professionals* page, they will find information regarding state and national guidelines, Michigan legislation, educational links, various articles, publications and more. The *Pain and Symptom Management for the Public* page provides information on definitions, myths and treatment options, end of life care, state and national guidelines and recommendations, palliative care, helpful resources and databases, and links to news reports about pain and symptom management. Another page is devoted to the Advisory Committee on Pain and Symptom Management and the important work the Committee is doing on behalf of the State of Michigan.

We hope you will take a moment to visit the Pain and Symptom Management website (www.michigan.gov/pm) to view the information that is available to you and your patients.

■ ***Update on the Tamper Resistant Prescription Pads — Deadline Was April 1, 2008***

As reported in the Fall 2007 issue of HealthLink, the implementation of the federally mandated use of tamper resistant prescription pads for the Medicaid Program was delayed until April 1, 2008.

As noted in the Medical Services Administration Bulletin Number MSA 08-03 (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/MSA-08-03-Tamper_Resistant_4_223368_7.pdf), health care professionals need to be aware that tamper resistant prescriptions written from April 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008 must contain at least one of the following standard security features:

- Prevention of unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription.
- Prevention of erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber.
- Prevention of the use of a counterfeit prescription form.

All tamper resistant prescriptions written on and after October 1, 2008 will be required to contain all three standard security features.

Additional information is available regarding the Tamper Resistant Prescription Pad Policy by viewing MSA Bulletin Number 07-51 and MSA Bulletin Number 07-56 at http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2945_5100-87513--,00.html.

■ ***Progress Is Being Made On Three New Professions***

As reported in previous issues of HealthLink, three new professions are now regulated under Article 15: Acupuncturists, Athletic Trainers and Dietitians/Nutritionists.

We are working with the respective licensing boards for each profession to develop administrative rules. Once the administrative rules have gone through the promulgation process, it is anticipated that applications will be available no earlier than January 2009.

Thank you for your patience.

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■ ***How Does Michigan Use the Information from Licensee Surveys and Why Should You Complete One?***

Many health professionals have had the opportunity to complete a licensing survey at the time of license renewal. Licensees receive the survey in the same mailing as their renewal notice, or they may complete it when they renew their license online. Since 2003, nurses, physicians, physician residents, dentists, dental hygienists, pharmacists and physician's assistants have received licensing surveys.

If you have received a licensing survey in the past and questioned whether your feedback is important, be assured it is **vital** important. The information we get from licensing surveys is crucial in determining current and future health care workforce trends and needs. Some of the future surveys may be modified to further assess workforce trends. We may also survey professional practice issues such as pain management, patient safety and E-health practices.

Findings from past completed licensing surveys can be found by going to the Michigan Healthcare Workforce Center website at www.michigan.gov/mhwc. Information regarding ongoing and current surveys still in the process of being finalized can also be found at this website address.

If you receive a licensing survey with your next renewal, please take a moment to complete and return it. And, be sure to complete the online version if you renew your license online at www.michigan.gov/mylicense. The survey is conveniently presented at the beginning of the online license renewal process.

■ ***Health Professional Licensing Boards Seeking Interested Applicants for Professional and Public Board Member Positions***

Are you interested in serving on a health professional licensing board as either a professional or public member?

The Bureau of Health Professions oversees 23 licensing boards and each board is comprised of both professional and public members as mandated by the Public Health Code. Duties of the health professional licensing boards are also mandated by the Public Health Code. Underlying all duties is the responsibility of the board to promote and protect the public's health, safety and welfare by ascertaining minimal entry-level competency of health practitioners and taking disciplinary action against licensees who have

adversely affected the public's health, safety and welfare.

The Governor appoints all professional and public members for the various health professional licensing boards. The Governor's Appointments Division is always seeking interested Michigan citizens for these appointments. To obtain additional information regarding the appointments process, please go to www.michigan.gov/gov and click on "Gov. Appointments" on the left-hand side of the page. The appointments application is also available on this page for either downloading or completing online.

CONTACTING BHP

By Mail: Bureau of Health Professions
P.O. Box 30670
Lansing, MI 48909-8170

By Phone: (517) 335-0918
(517) 241-9427 (License Verification)

Website: www.michigan.gov/healthlicense

HealthLink is a biannual publication of the Michigan Department of Community Health—Bureau of Health Professions. Statements and opinions appearing in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Bureau of Health Professions.

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Readers' comments are invited. Please email comments and suggestions to the editor at: wimenos@michigan.gov or write to: HealthLink Editor, BHP, P.O. Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909.

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■ Reporting Requirements for Disciplinary Actions

A reporting requirement under Article 15 of the Public Health Code requires licensees and registrants to report disciplinary actions to their patients (MCL 333.16241).

- A licensee or registrant whose license is revoked or suspended must notify each patient who contacts the licensee or registrant for professional services during the term of the revocation or suspension. The notice may be given orally at the time of contact.
- A licensee or registrant whose license or registration is revoked or suspended for more than 60 days must notify, in writing, each patient or client to whom the licensee or registrant had given professional services in his or her private practice during the 120 days immediately prior to the date of the final order. Written notification also must be given to each individual who is scheduled for professional services during the first 120 days after the date of the final order. The notice must be on a form provided by the appropriate regulatory board or task force. A licensee or registrant also must give oral notice to an individual who contacts him or her for professional services during the first 120 days after the date of the final order. Within ten days after the date of the final order that imposed a revocation or suspension for more than 60 days, a licensee or registrant must provide a copy of the notice to his or her employer or hospital in which he or she is admitted to practice, if any.
- If a licensee or registrant is reprimanded, fined, placed on probation, or ordered to pay restitution or an individual whose application for licensure or registration is denied, he or she must notify his or her employer and each hospital in which he or she is admitted to practice, if any, within ten days after the date of the final order.

A copy of this statute may be downloaded from the Michigan Legislature website at www.legislature.mi.gov.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Question & Answer Corner

Question: How do I have my license verified, or a letter of good standing provided, to another state?

Answer: To obtain a written verification of your license to be sent to another state, you must submit this request, in writing, to the Michigan Bureau of Health Professions, Attention: Verifications, P.O. Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909, along with a \$15.00 fee (check or money order made payable to the State of Michigan) for certification processing. Your written request should include your name as it appears on your license, your license number and the name and address of the state board to which the certification should be sent. Normal processing time is 20-30 business days.

■ Cancer Drug Repository Program

Effective September 29, 2006, P.A. 416 requires the Department of Community Health to establish and maintain a Cancer Drug Repository Program. In establishing the program, the Michigan Board of Pharmacy is required under MCL 333.17780(1) of the Public Health Code to establish program guidelines, policies and procedures that address the Cancer Drug Repository Program. In accordance with this requirement, the Board of Pharmacy is requiring a health facility or pharmacy that participates in the program to establish written policies and procedures that pertain to the implementation of the program.

Participation is voluntary and a health facility or pharmacy may choose to participate fully in the program or limit its participation by only accepting and storing donated cancer drugs and supplies. (Note: controlled substances are not eligible for donation or acceptance under the Cancer Drug Repository Program.) If limited participation is chosen, the health facility or pharmacy must specify procedures that will be used to distribute any donated drugs to a fully participating pharmacy or health facility.

Cancer drugs and supplies may only be donated by individuals who are 18 years old or older. These donated cancer drugs and supplies must be dispensed to Michigan residents only in the following priority order: (1) Individuals who are uninsured or do not have insurance coverage for those cancer drugs or supplies; (2) Individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, or any other public assistance health care program; (3) All other individuals who are Michigan residents and diagnosed with cancer.

The Cancer Drug Repository Program Guidelines and associated forms to voluntarily participate are available for downloading on the Bureau of Health Professions' website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense. Questions may be directed to (517) 335-0918 or to bhpinfo@michigan.gov.

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■ ***The Medical Waste Regulatory Program in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality***

The Medical Waste Regulatory Program within the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for administering and enforcing Michigan's Medical Waste Regulatory Act (MWRA). The MWRA regulates the handling, storage, treatment and disposal of medical waste. Its objective is to protect people who come into contact with medical waste from exposure to the risk of injury, infection or disease that is created from improperly disposed medical waste. Any health professional who is in contact with medical waste is required under Part 138 of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended, to adhere to the laws and rules under the Medical Waste Regulatory Act.

For additional information regarding the Medical Waste Regulatory Program and to review the rules and regulations, please go to www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste.

■ ***High Demand for Health Care Workers in Michigan!*** ***Submitted by the Michigan Health Council***

The demand for health care, and therefore the demand for health care workers, is increasing. Michigan and the nation have a shortage of nurses, physicians and several other high demand health care professions.

The Michigan Health Council (MHC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing health care workforce issues in Michigan, operates several collaborative programs designed to ease health workforce shortages and promote Michigan as a place to work:

- Individual Career Opportunities in Nursing (nurseicon.org) is Michigan's complete job board for nursing professionals (licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and nurse practitioners). Supported by health care organizations throughout the state, Nurse iCON boasts over 400 nursing jobs with over 100 employers. Nurse iCON is always a free resource for nurses.
- Michigan Health Care Jobs (mihealthcarejobs.org) is Michigan's newest job board for physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, respiratory therapists, radiologist technologists, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, medical technologists and surgical technologists. As a free resource, health care professionals can search jobs and connect with health care employers throughout the state.
- Medical Opportunities in Michigan (mimom.org) is celebrating 15 years. MOM is Michigan's premiere job board for physicians, physician's assistants and nurse practitioners. Supported by health care organizations throughout the state, MOM lists over 500 opportunities. MOM is always a free resource for candidates.
- Michigan Center for Nursing (michigancenterfornursing.org) is a central resource for the collection, analysis, forecasting and dissemination of data on nurse supply and demand.
- Michigan HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America -- michiganhosa.org) is devoted to developing knowledge, skills and leadership among college students enrolled in health occupation education programs of all types.
- HOTT (Health Opportunities for Today & Tomorrow -- mihott.org) is a web-based service that enables high school and college students to research over 80 careers in nursing, medicine and allied health, then connect with colleges, universities and training programs for the career areas they're interested in.
- Alliance for Clinical Experience (ACE -- <http://www.acepassport.org>) is a centralized online service designed to link health occupation students statewide with the clinical training rotations they need to advance their careers.

For over 65 years the MHC has been improving the lives of people by expanding the availability and distribution of health services. Through the promotion of the current health workforce, and the development of future health professionals, MHC is committed to addressing the ever-changing needs of the people and communities it serves.

For more information, visit www.mhc.org or call (517) 347-3332.

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■ **Web-Based Tobacco Training Program Available for Health Care Providers**

The Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) Tobacco Section has a new, free web-based tobacco training program titled "Treating Tobacco Dependence in Michigan: Implementing Effective Cessation Interventions and Systems" that is now available through the Section's webpage at www.michigan.gov/tobacco.

The training program, produced and presented by the MDCH in conjunction with the Michigan Smokefree Hospitals Grant, is designed to help health care providers implement evidence-based patient cessation interventions and systems change in order to decrease tobacco use. The training features four modules with the ability to complete one, two, three or all four modules and each module is approximately one hour in length.

The four modules are:

- I. Enhancing Tobacco Reduction in Pediatrics: Strategies for Pediatric Care Providers and Offices
- II. Tobacco Dependence and Abuse: A Serious Disease That is Killing Michigan Residents
- III. Nicotine Addiction Therapy
- IV. Implementing Cessation Programs: Inpatient and Outpatient

The following modules are coming soon:

- Implementing Systems Change to Reduce Patient Tobacco Use Dependence
- Tobacco Cessation in the Dental Setting
- Maternal/Prenatal Tobacco Cessation Strategies

Additional information about this training may be obtained by calling the Tobacco Section at (517) 241-1195 or emailing LyonE@michigan.gov.

■ **The Michigan Nurses Foundation Submitted by Margherita P. Clark, RN, MSN, Vice-Chair of the Michigan Board of Nursing**

The Michigan Nurses Foundation (MNF) was created in 2000 to advance nursing and nursing education by awarding educational scholarships and research grants to nurses and nursing students, as well as financial aid to nurses recovering from substance abuse or mental illness. Through the MNF, opportunities are provided for those who wish to provide a legacy today for tomorrow's nurses.

Nurses know the importance of employing versatility and critical thinking in caring for their patients. Following that ideal, MNF has created criteria for each of the areas it supports.

Providing Research Grants: MNF will be instrumental in accomplishing a number of research objectives by contracting research to expert investigators. Using this key method will allow MNF to supply a missing piece of knowledge to clarify a "best practice" or help identify pressing issues pertaining to the nursing workforce. The MNF manages the Conduct and Utilization of Research in Nursing (CURN) Award, a \$5,000 competitive research award designed to fund either conduct of research or utilization of research in practice.

Providing Nursing Scholarships and Continuing Education Tuition Grants: The following are the minimum nursing scholarship eligibility criteria:

1. The applicant must be a student currently enrolled in a Michigan college/school of nursing that grants a certificate for practical nursing or an associate, baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing.
2. The applicant must be in good academic standing with demonstrated progress toward degree completion.

Financial Aid to Nurses Recovering from Substance Abuse or Mental Illness: Recovering nurses who are enrolled in a qualified treatment program must often provide their own funding for necessary testing and other treatment-related requirements. Nurses who meet the criteria for financial aid will be supported by the Foundation through direct or indirect payments to the provider. All nurses to be considered for aid must have a written referral of support from a qualified treatment provider.

As a member of the MNF Board and the Michigan Board of Nursing, I see firsthand the challenges some of my nurse peers experience when their license is sanctioned because of substance abuse or mental illness. I have witnessed nurses trying to rebuild their personal and professional lives, often with very limited resources, to return to the profession they love—nursing. The MNF works to help new individuals entering the profession and current nurses to advance their education through academic scholarships,

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recovering nurses through treatment funding and funding nursing research grants to improve patient outcomes through best practices.

Perhaps you know of a recovering nurse in need of support, a nursing student who would benefit from an academic scholarship or a practicing nurse wishing to advance his/her education. Please help us to inform them about the MNF and the opportunities that await.

The MNF Board is also seeking individuals interested in serving two-year terms. The MNF Board roles and responsibilities are as follows:

Set Direction

- Develop and maintain focus on mission and vision.
- Establish and oversee implementation of strategic direction.
- Delegate authority for organizational management.
- Articulate, safeguard, model and promote organizational values.

Ensure Resources

- Identify human and financial resources needed for implementation of mission.
- Establish policies for how these resources will be acquired, including policies for board member participation.
- Ensure that the necessary resources are made available.

Provide Oversight

- Establish financial policies and ensure accountability.
- Ensure compliance with applicable laws and ethical standards.
- Monitor progress and evaluate outcomes.

Individual Board Member Responsibility

- Attend all board and committee meetings and functions, such as special events.
- Be informed about the organization's mission, services, policies and programs.
- Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
- Serve on committees and offer to take on special assignments.
- Make a personal financial contribution to the organization.
- Inform others about the organization.
- Suggest possible nominees to the board who can make significant contributions to the work of the board and the organization.
- Keep up-to-date on developments in the field.
- Follow conflict of interest and confidentiality policies.
- Assist the board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities such as reviewing annual financial statements.

Personal Characteristics Required of Board Members

- Ability to listen, analyze, think clearly and creatively and work well with individuals and groups.
- Willingness to prepare for and attend board and committee meetings, take responsibility and follow through on assignments, contribute personal and financial resources in a generous way according to circumstances, open doors in the community and evaluate oneself.
- Willingness to develop certain skills if you do not already possess them, such as cultivating and soliciting funds, cultivating and recruiting board members and other volunteers, reading and understanding financial statements and learning more about the substantive program area of the organization.
- Possess honesty, sensitivity to and tolerance of differing views; a friendly, responsive and patient approach; community building skills; personal integrity; a developed sense of values; concern for your non-profit's development; and a sense of humor.

Information and application forms for grants, scholarships and financial aid are available on the MNF website at www.michigannursesfoundation.org or by calling 888-MI-NURSE.

REMINDER—Many Online Services Are At Your Fingertips!

- **Main Website:** www.michigan.gov/healthlicense
- **Application Status:** www.michigan.gov/appstatus
- **Online Change of Address:** www.michigan.gov/mylicense
- **Online Renewal:** www.michigan.gov/mylicense
- **Verify a License:** www.michigan.gov/verifylicense